

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 132683
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PRESS:GEBROWN
APPROVED BY ARA/PRESS: GEORGE E. BROWN
USIA - MR. LEIBY (PHONE)
ARA/AND/V - MR. SONANDRES

-----091120Z 126251 /15

R 082248Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 132683

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, VE

SUBJECT: PEREZ STATE VISIT: MEDIA ASPECT

1. WE ASSUME VENEZUELANS WOULD LIKE PROMINENT, FRONT-PAGE PRESS COVERAGE OF PEREZ' VISIT. IF SO, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE SUPPORTIVE. SUBJECT COULD COME UP IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOV OFFICIALS DURING MRS. CARTER'S VISIT.

2. PRESENT SCHEDULE PROVIDES SUBSTANTIAL MEDIA CONTACT AND EVENTS THAT SHOULD ATTRACT SOME MEDIA ATTENTION, INCLUDING SPOT COVERAGE ON EVENING NEWS SHOWS. BUT THESE ALONE ARE NOT LIKELY TO MAKE PROMINENT FRONT PAGE STORIES IN MAJOR DAILIES OR BRING EXTENSIVE COVERAGE ON TV NETWORKS. THAT WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER CAP SAYS ANYTHING THAT MAKES NEWS. IN GENERAL, LATIN AMERICA -- EXCEPT FOR CUBA AND PANAMA -- HAS NOT BEEN DRAWING FRONT PAGE COVERAGE. SO GENERAL REMARKS BY CAP ON SUCH MATTERS AS U.S.-LATIN RELATIONS, NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE TREATED AS MAJOR NEWS
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STORIES. WHAT COULD ATTRACT ATTENTION WOULD BE HIS POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND, PARTICULARLY, OIL. SINCE HIS VISIT WILL COME ONLY SHORTLY BEFORE THE OPEC MEETING, INTEREST IN THAT MEETING AND OIL WOULD BE HIGH. HIS VIEWS ON THOSE SUBJECTS (INCLUDING ENERGY CONSERVATION) WOULD LIKELY DRAW SIGNIFICANT ATTENTION. IF HE IS WILLING TO DISCUSS FRANKLY

THOSE SUBJECTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PRESS CONTACTS SCHEDULED FOR HIM, HE WILL RECEIVE PROBABLY PROMINENT ATTENTION. HE MIGHT ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER GIVING AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO A MAJOR TV NETWORK CORRESPONDENT (WE WOULD PREFER HE ARRANGE THIS). CAP'S LACK OF ENGLISH WOULD MAKE APPEARANCES ON MAJOR NETWORK PROGRAMS DIFFICULT.

3. WORKING TO HIS ADVANTAGE WILL BE FACT HE IS MORE WIDELY KNOWN TO PRESS THAN MOST OTHER LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS. ALSO HIS VISIT COMES DURING A USUALLY SLOW NEWS PERIOD; SO THE COMPETITION, BARING SOME FAST-BREAKING MAJOR EVENT, SHOULD BE LESS. THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IS HOLDING A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH COLUMNISTS NOW.

4. STILL EXPECTATIONS SHOULD NOT BE TOO HIGH. ONE WASHINGTON POST REPORTER HAS POINTED OUT THAT PERSONAL INTERVIEWS IN YEARS PAST WITH, FOR EXAMPLE, ALLENDE, TITO AND ECHEVARRIA, DID NOT MAKE THE FRONT PAGE OF HIS PAPER.

5. ACTION: WE THINK YOU SHOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH THE VENEZUELAN, DRAWING ON THE ABOVE. ASSURE THE GOV THAT WE WANT TO BE HELPFUL OUT, NOTE THAT IN THE END, CAP HIMSELF MAY HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOME NEW NOTEWORTHY ITEMS EVEN TO BEAT COVERAGE GIVEN SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD WHOSE RECENT VISIT GENERATED ONLY ONE FRONT PAGE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTO AND INSIDE STORY. VANCE

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Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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